



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2011

Contact: Robert Sauers

Phone: +93 (0) 79 4858 501

Email: rsauers@usaid.gov

U.S. Development Agency in Afghanistan Commemorates World Population Day

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | JULY 11, 2011 – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joins the global community in observing the 22nd World Population Day today in a special year when the world population is expected to pass the seven billion mark. This year's theme, *The World at 7 Billion*, provides the opportunity to not only celebrate that people are living longer, healthier lives but also reflect on the challenges that lie ahead to improve the lives of future generations.

"World Population Day highlights the important role family planning and women's health play in a wide range of development issues including poverty reduction, improving maternal and child health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability," said USAID/Afghanistan Mission Director Dr. S. Ken Yamashita.

In Afghanistan, USAID supports quality voluntary family planning and counseling provided at public-health facilities throughout Afghanistan as a part of the Basic Package of Health Services Project. USAID also supports the provision of educational messages about birth spacing and maternal/child health through the media and community outreach, and promotes the sale of condoms, oral and injectable contraceptives, and other health products in private-sector outlets.

As the largest bilateral donor in family planning, USAID is uniquely poised to accelerate progress in family planning and maternal and child health, leading to further reductions in unintended pregnancy and maternal and child mortality.

World Population Day was inaugurated in 1989 to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, particularly in the context of overall development plans and programs. This day reaffirms the need to focus on people and how they can plan their families. As the world population approaches seven billion, it becomes all the more important to try to ensure that all the people on this planet are able to lead decent lives.

#

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.



USAID on Facebook



USAID on Twitter



USAID on YouTube



USAID on Flickr